

SUMMARY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT

November 2012 (*updates in italics*)

<u>Project/Activity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Status</u>
Portage City Landfill	Ongoing groundwater monitoring of former municipal landfill.	-City Council awarded a 3 year contract to American Hydrogeologic Corporation (AHC) on February 23, 2010 to perform annual groundwater sampling. The site groundwater data will continue to be monitored to confirm continuation of the natural attenuation process. Sampling shows continued improvement in groundwater quality. Sampling completed in April 2010. Annual report submitted to MDNRE in June 2010. General groundwater quality continues to improve, but site will require monitoring for the foreseeable future. 2011 sampling completed in March. 2011 annual report submitted to MDEQ, with moderate groundwater quality improvements. Investigation into methane gas presence in the groundwater is underway. First round of sampling completed in April 2012. Second round of sampling completed in June 2012. Initial results indicate no off-site impact. <i>Annual report submitted to MDEQ. Review meeting held September 21, 2012 with MDEQ with follow-up in October. AHC currently preparing future monitoring plan and cost estimate.</i>
Site Inspection/Development Project Review	Review of existing business & industries and review of proposed business and industrial development projects for environmental protection purposes and/or building plans completed.	-Coordination with property owners and City or State agencies ongoing. <i>-Review of 4 site/building plans and/or plats completed in November 2012.</i>
Sewer Connection Program	Groundwater protection program requiring residential/business hookup to the sanitary sewer where available.	<i>-Sanitary sewer hookup permits issued in November 2012: 3 residential; 1 commercial. One connection made as part of the mandatory sewer connection program.</i>
West Lake Management Program	Special assessment district designed to maintain/improve lake conditions.	-Five Year Lake Management Assessment District process was approved by City Council on March 23, 2010. Construction began on the Austin Dam reconstruction in December 2006 and new structure completed in March 2007. Filtration system construction was substantially completed in July 2008. The 2011 lake survey and treatment preparations are complete. Additional areas requested by the Association for treatment. Amendment to the 2011 Treatment Program approved by City Council on August 9, 2011. Lake Association has completed 2012 plan and lake treatment completed in May 2012. Review of program underway by Lakeshore Environmental Consultants. <i>Planning underway for the 2013 season.</i>

Retention Basin Sampling Program (Groundwater Elevation)	Investigation regarding potential impact of retention basins on groundwater levels.	-Historical monitoring continues to show minor impacts at most basins. From 1993 through 2009 the monitoring program showed stable groundwater impacts due to stormwater infiltration. Alternative road salt practices continue to be considered and evaluated. On March 23, 2010, City Council awarded a four-year contract to Wightman Environmental. Program will focus primarily on groundwater level information. The 2011 annual report received. Groundwater results show that the general groundwater table on the east side of Portage has risen approximately one foot in 2011 and is generally at levels seen in 2009. Groundwater levels, especially on the east side of Portage, have decreased in 2012 as a result of seasonal rainfall deficiencies.
Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP)	Development of program to protect City well fields and surrounding area from contamination resulting from improper land use.	-Wellhead Protection Grant award received from MDEQ on August 30, 1999 and Council accepted the grant on October 5, 1999. Council also awarded contract to Earth Tech to complete WHPP. Earth Tech completed the final wellhead protection plan and MDEQ submittal was made on October 14, 2000. Plan was reviewed by MDEQ with written approval received in March, 2001. Staff has met internally to discuss the future needs to update the plan pending grant opportunities. Plan implementation is ongoing.
Leaf Compost Monitoring Program	Monitoring and analysis of groundwater at the new Oakland Drive Leaf Compost site.	-City Council awarded contract on August 21, 2001 to Soil & Materials Engineers for monitoring and analysis of groundwater impact of the new compost operation. Drilling was completed in October 2001 and first sampling cycle was completed in February 2002. Semi annual sampling was performed from 2002 to 2011 in June and January. Sampling and analysis results continue to show no groundwater impacts from the leaf composting. Sampling schedule was reduced to annual sampling in 2009 with results showing continued minor impact on groundwater quality. Annual sampling completed in June 2011 minimal impacts noted. Sampling completed in June 2012 with minimal groundwater impacts.
National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit implementation	Five year plan to implement the current NPDES stormwater permit.	-Received NPDES general permit on August 15, 2001. Renewal Application submission was made to MDEQ on March 7, 2003. New permit received in 2004 mandates involvement in several county watershed groups. City staff completed the submission of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWIPPI) as required by NPDES permit. SWIPPI submitted on October 21, 2005. New certificate of coverage permit was issued by MDEQ on September 30, 2009. New permit covers a 5 year timeframe with first work item (updating the Public Participation Plan) due December 11, 2009. Plan update completed with other local governments and submitted November 24, 2009. Staff completed an updated SWIPPI submittal to MDNRE. SWIPPI was submitted for MDNRE approval on June 25, 2010. Permit implementation is ongoing. Received a notice from MDNRE rescinding the 2008 permit due to a recent court case ruling.

MDNRE reinstated the 2003 permit for implementation. Information on new permit requirement was received February 2011. MDNRE expected to issue new permit in 2014. City staff presented public information with other local agencies at the 2011 Home Expo on March 9-12, 2011. Tour of Liberty Park Stormwater treatment was held September 6, 2011 for the Southwest Michigan Soil Control Association. 2010-11 annual report was submitted on January 20, 2012. Implementation is ongoing. Stormwater informational talk was given to Pfizer, Inc., employees on April 28, 2012. MDEQ scheduled an audit of the program for July 12, 2012. Audit completed with satisfactory results. Several follow-up items with MDEQ to be addressed by staff. Program implementation is ongoing.

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit implementation

Kalamazoo River Mainstem Watershed Management Plan

-First meeting was held September 17, 2004. Proposals for completing the watershed plan were received by Kalamazoo County on September 15, 2005 and a contract awarded to Kieser & Associates in November 2005. Draft watershed plan submitted to MDEQ on December 30, 2005. Review comments received from MDEQ and revised watershed plan due in December 2006. A letter not to revise the Watershed Plan was submitted to the MDEQ on March 17, 2008. Public participation plan update submitted to MDEQ on November 24, 2009. Kalamazoo River Water Festival was held on August 14, 2010 with City of Portage participation. Preliminary grant request submitted September 16, 2010 for West Fork of Portage Creek storm water enhancements. Complete grant application was submitted on October 25, 2010. Notice received July 18, 2011 that grant application was not awarded. Kalamazoo River Watershed council completed a watershed update in November, 2011. No new developments.

Portage River Watershed Management Plan

-Public participation plan submitted June 28, 2004. Proposals for a Watershed Management Plan were received by the Kalamazoo County Road Commission and a contract awarded to the Kalamazoo County Conservation Service in November 2005. Draft watershed plan submitted to MDEQ on December 30, 2005. Follow-up meetings are held monthly to facilitate an implementation schedule. Portage River Watershed public meeting held in Vicksburg on April 11, 2006. Review comments received from MDEQ and revised watershed plan due November 2006. Revised Watershed Plan submitted November 30, 2006, follow up meetings to be held as necessary. A letter not to revise the Watershed Plan was submitted to the MDEQ on March 17, 2008. Public participation plan update submitted to MDEQ on November 24, 2009. Based upon MDEQ comments, the plan was revised and resubmitted on December 21, 2009. Interest has been raised by local conservation groups to update the current Watershed Plan using grant funds. Meeting held on May 9, 2011 among stakeholders to determine interest in updating the current water shed plan. Second meeting held on June 20, 2011, and grant application submitted by Kalamazoo and Calhoun County Conservation District to update the Watershed Plan. *Grant for watershed update was awarded to Calhoun County Conversation District. First kick-off meeting scheduled for December 13, 2012.*

Plan to implement and maintain an Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP).

-On October 21, 2001, City Council awarded a contract to Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber for the Portage Creek element of the IDEP, which was completed in July 2002. On February 19, 2002, City Council approved a new ordinance as required by the NPDES permit titled "Storm Water Illicit Discharges and Connections". On April 28, 2004, City Council accepted a grant from the State of Michigan in the amount of \$152,264 and awarded a contract to Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber in the amount of \$184,264 for the remainder of the IDEP for the entire city. Program implementation is ongoing as funding allows. Continued outfall sampling is required by permit and will be budgeted accordingly. IDEP program was updated for submittal to MDNRE on June 25, 2010, and part of the SWIPPI. Implementation is ongoing.

Storm Sewer Outfall Testing

On March 23, 2011 City Council awarded a four year contract to Wightman Environmental to perform testing of (selected storm sewers). Surface water discharges. This work is required as part of the NPDES permit. 2011 annual report received with minor surface water impacts from the Woodland Avenue discharge. *Testing will continue in November 2012. Report will be due in January 2013. Testing results are reported to MDEQ.*

Garden Lane Arsenic Removal Facility

Construction of a water treatment facility at the Garden Lane Wellfield to remove arsenic, iron and manganese from the groundwater.

-City Council approved an agreement with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. on January 10, 2006 to prepare a feasibility study to meet new USEPA arsenic standards for drinking water. Feasibility study completed in August 2006. Engineering proposals for the project were received August 14, 2007. Project engineering awarded to Earth Tech by City Council on September 11, 2007. Contract awarded by City Council on December 16, 2008 to Adams Building Contractors, Inc., Jackson, Michigan. Preconstruction meeting was held January 29, 2009. Facility is in operation with ribbon cutting held August 2, 2010. City staff gave a presentation on August 9, 2010 to the Michigan Chapter of the American Water Works Association about the arsenic removal of the facility. The facility is producing approximately one million gallons of water per day. Staff conducted a tour of the facility on April 27, 2011 to the local Chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers. Facility is in regular operation. Plant tour for Stryker Engineering group was held on June 19, 2012. City Staff in conjunction with the Environmental Board is working on a sustainable native planting landscape design with Native Connections Inc. for the facility. *Regrading and installation of native landscaping seeding completed on November 16, 2012. Germination results in spring 2013 will determine if additional seeding is required.*

Environmental Incident/Spill Clean Up Notification

Environmental Protection Program to assist Portage Police/Fire Departments with spill containment and spill cleanup.

-The number of environmental incident/spill investigations performed in November 2012 – 1. Number of environmental cleanups in November – 0. Emergency spill response contract for 2012-13 with Terra Contracting is in

place. *One minor gasoline spill occurred on November 27, 2012 on Romence Road. Investigation revealed little environmental impact and clean up was performed by the owner's environmental response company.*

Hampton Wetland Area Water Level

Assistance with the Inverness Condominium Association to Review Surface Water Levels

-Ongoing assistance with the Condominium Association to develop appropriate measures to regulate the rising water level in Hampton Wetlands Area located on the north side of West Centre Avenue and east of Angling Road. Met with MDNRE staff to determine feasible method to lower water levels. Association currently working with MDNRE permit staff on February 26, 2010 to clarify permit requirements. Lower groundwater table elevation has reduced the concerns from the Condominium Association. Conference call with MDNRE held on December 8, 2010 to discuss permit submission updates. Condo Association discussing project with other property owners for support. Association submitted a letter to City Administration asking that the city consider the Wetland Water Level Regulation a municipal project. On March 22, 2011, city staff response recommending the Association consider governmental lake board. The Association is considering next steps. No new developments.

Southwest Michigan Regional Sustainability Covenant

Collaborative effort with local government, academic, and other stakeholders to lead toward environmental, economic and social sustainability.

-On May 12, 2009, City Council approved the Southwest Michigan Regional Sustainability Covenant. A sustainability work session was held April 14, 2010, to review elements of the covenant in cooperation with the City of Kalamazoo and the City of Battle Creek. A grant application was made to MDNRE for a greenhouse gas inventory study of the area. Notice received July 15, 2010 that the grant application was not successful. City staff attended a September 10, 2010 meeting in Grand Rapids to discuss sustainable economic, environment, and society programs. No new developments.

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